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1981 Membership List

NEWSLETTER OF THE LONDON CHAPTER, ONTARIO ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

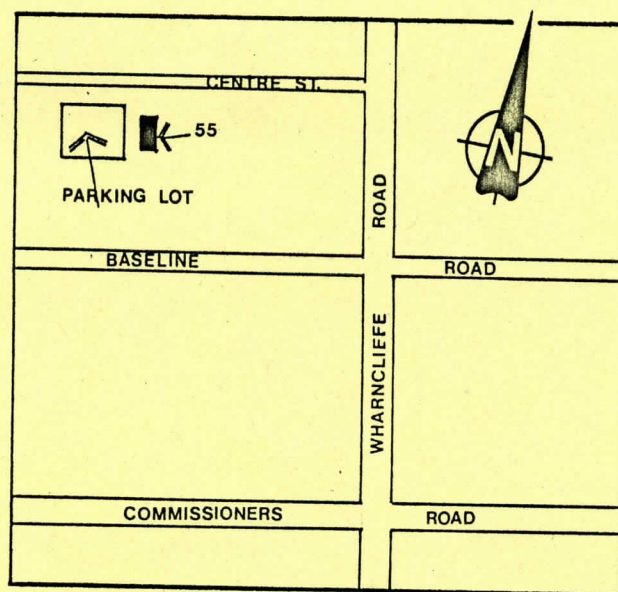
MARCH, 1981

81-3

MEETING NOTICE

The impending move of the Museum of Indian Archaeology to their new facilities at the Lawson site has required that we hold this month's meeting at 55 Centre Street. For those new members who have not visited the Ministry of Culture and Recreation archaeological field office, directions are provided in the map below. Meeting time is 8:00 P.M. on March 12.

In keeping with this year's O.A.S. overseas tour destination, the Chapter is proud to present *Sequences Without Stratigraphy : Investigating the Prehistory of the Dakhleh Oasis, Egypt*. Dr. Mary MacDonald of the University of Western Ontario will be describing some of the aims and results of this exciting multi-year project in the eastern Sahara.



EXECUTIVE REPORT

Topics of discussion at our February 25 executive meeting in Thamesford involved the conclusion of our Symposium account, speakers for future Chapter meetings, the Ohio bus tour, our summer picnic and the change in location for the March general meeting. The latter is announced on our first page, while the picnic has been confirmed for June 13 at the Pihl homestead in Granton. A proposed Ohio tour -itinerary will be presented for membership comment at this month's meeting.

Other matters arising included the Chapter financial statement for 1980 and our 1981 membership list, both of which are presented in this issue of KEWA. Our questionnaire/membership flyer was quite successful, as we have received fourteen replies and twelve 1981 memberships to date. Finally, the executive resolved to hold all further 1981 executive meetings at 8:00 P.M. on the last Wednesday of each month, at the Keron residence in Thamesford.

LONDON CHAPTER QUESTIONNAIRE RESULTS

	YES	NO
1. Participating in weekend car pool day trips to:		
Local archaeological sites	6	4 *
Excavations at local sites	9	2
Museums, heritage parks, etc.	4	6
2. Participating in:		
Archaeological surveys	7	4
Archaeological excavations	7	4
3. Participating in all aspects of a Chapter project:	8	3

London Chapter Questionnaire Results (cont'd.)

	YES	NO
4. Volunteering for Chapter archaeological project:		
Artifact washing	2	3
Artifact cataloguing	3	3
Artifact restoration	3	3
Artifact illustration	1	3
Time available: Any time - 4		
Saturday/Sunday - 1		
5. Attendance on Chapter bus tour to Ohio:	8	2
6. --Should Chapter have training workshops:	8	-
Workshop suggestions: Ceramic analysis		
Faunal analysis		
Lithic analysis		
Prehistoric culture history		
Historical archaeology		
7. Other activities Chapter should offer:		
"I think we are doing as much as we can with the people resources available!" - only comment received.		

Once again your editor is calling for research papers. Let's face it, where else can you submit your article for guaranteed publication (no questions asked), rapid publication (one month turn-around), quality reproduction (we're obtaining a new copier) and wide distribution (filed in the National Library, sent throughout Ontario and abroad)!

This month's offering consists of an attempt to condense the writer's McMaster Symposium talk entitled *Looks Like a Good Paradigm, But Will It Float?* While the following barely scratches the surface, apologies are offered for its length.....

ECOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVES IN ARCHAEOLOGY

WILLIAM A. FOX

While the ecological approach to archaeology is much in vogue these days, few researchers appear willing to acknowledge the tremendous obstacles facing anyone attempting to reconstruct past environments and human activities, let alone the relationship of one to the other.

Descending through levels of abstraction we might begin by noting that there is no agreement between scholars as to the degree to which various former human groups were influenced by or themselves influenced the natural environment. Nor is there agreement, given an ecological frame of reference, as to whether the appropriate unit of study is the individual or the various systems in which individuals or groups functioned.

Ignoring the preceding academic "cake slicing" and returning to the world of dirt and stones and bones, we confront the *archaeological site* in its multitude of forms. Choosing a five acre Iroquoian village as a hypothetical study unit, it would be fair to assert that few archaeologists have the opportunity, motivation or perhaps, the right to excavate such a site in its entirety. Consequently, a sample area is usually selected for investigation.

At present there is only one published study available addressing sampling strategies as applied to the problem of obtaining representative collections of any artifact or ecofact class from our village. This is Bellhouse and Finlayson's (1979) article in the Canadian Journal of Archaeology. Their results were informative and important; however, the study dealt only with ceramics which had been recovered through screening middens on the Late Prehistoric Southern Division Huron Draper village. The degree to which their results can be applied to other periods and Iroquoian groups or

even to other artifact or ecofact classes in middens is at present unknown. Studies are now underway involving the sampling of a variety of artifact classes within longhouses using the Draper village data. What this means is that we know very little about how to obtain representative artifact and ecofact samples from Iroquoian villages, let alone any other type of site.

Returning to our hypothetical village and granting our investigator the ability to develop an adequate site sampling strategy, our intrepid archaeologist may be faced with yet another hurdle - a corollary to the former, but none the less a problem. Aware of the most advanced recovery techniques available and the resultant manpower requirements, our investigator may realize that she does not have the time, personnel and/or money to recover "everything" from every "undisturbed" feature - let us say sub-plough zone pit. Again a sampling strategy must be devised which will produce as complete and representative a body of data as possible.

Virtually no information is available concerning appropriate methods of drawing pit samples from within longhouses or of selecting fill samples within pits. Even given "total" recovery of all artifacts/ecofacts within a pit, we do not know what human activities they represent. This is due in part to the fact that while we can identify pit "types" - or believe we can, we have little understanding of the depositional processes that led to the filling of these features. Regarding the sampling of a large Type 1 "storage" pit feature in a hypothetical longhouse, a recent and unpublished study by John MacDonald undertaken on the Glen Meyer Yaworsky hamlet indicated that in order to ensure representation of all floral taxa (as represented by carbonized seeds) one had to undertake flotation of all pit fill. No partial sampling strategy could be identified which would guarantee representation of all taxa, due to the low density and unpredictable loci of carbonized

seeds . Again, the applicability of these data to other pit types, sites, etc. is unknown at present.

Our investigator now realizes that since total pit fill flotation is impossible, then some potential information must be lost forever. But what is this magic process called *flotation*?

It is the most effective artifact and especially ecofact (carbonized botanical remains, animal bone, etc.) recovery technique readily available to archaeologists at present. This "sophisticated" process consists essentially of dumping archaeological site soil into water, collecting the material that sinks in a 2mm. mesh screen and collecting the floating debris in finer mesh screens. There are a variety of methods, machines and even liquid media in which this can be accomplished. The technique is time-consuming - .63 litres of pit fill can be processed per minute (on average) using the relatively rapid SMAP machine (and we have little experimental evidence on which to assess the recovery rate of this our best available technique). Since it requires two people to operate existing flotation systems, and "storage" pits can range in volume from 30 to over 1500 litres, and there can be many such pits on a 5 acre Iroquoian village well, you can imagine the time and manpower demands facing our probably under-funded archaeologist!

Some appreciation of the relative efficiency of flotation recovery as opposed to traditional $\frac{1}{4}$ " screening of archaeological deposits can be gained through experiments undertaken during the Force site (a 13th century Iroquoian village) rescue excavations in 1978, where a little over 1600 litres of fill from 51 features was "floated". Janet Cooper (1980) in her Force site faunal analysis found that while the identification rate of bone elements below class was much lower for floated as opposed to $\frac{1}{4}$ " screen samples (due to the small and fragmentary nature of much of the bone recovered

by flotation) nevertheless, 95% of the elements identifiable to class were being missed in $\frac{1}{4}$ " screening, as were 89% of the elements identifiable below a class level. That's a lot of information being lost!

Rudy Fecteau in his Force site archaeobotanical analysis found that 76% of the pits floated produced carbonized botanical remains, while none of the screened pit fill produced any! The abysmal screening recovery rate seems to have been due to the small size of the corn remains and the few pits producing nut shell fragments (4/51 - 8%) which, due to their durability and consequent size, can more often be recovered in $\frac{1}{4}$ " screening. Nevertheless, the above information is clear cut, if not shocking, and is corroborated by recovery data from other sites.

Mention should be made of the additional difficulties encountered in analyzing and interpreting those ecofacts recovered by our brave archaeologist once they have been delivered to various specialists, such as faunal analysts. These difficulties can be technical in nature, involving incomplete reference collections and the variable preservation of organic remains, or theoretical, concerning problems in equating ecofact quantities with formerly existing food volumes. A number of articles describing some of the difficulties inherent in ecofact interpretation have been published over the past decade.

The truly formidable nature of the quest for an accurate perception of man's past environment and activities, as well as an understanding of how the two interrelated, should be more than evident by now. While much remains to be learned regarding site and feature sampling, as well as artifact and ecofact recovery techniques (not to mention the contribution of soil chemistry, etc.), the only chance for archaeologists to obtain an accurate ecological perception of the past is through the use of the most effective data gathering

techniques available. One should never lose sight of the fact that the hypotheses and theories formulated concerning man's past can be no more accurate than the data on which they are constructed, or to use the old computer adage, *garbage in garbage out!*

STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENSES
FOR YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1980

BALANCE ON HAND JANUARY 1, 1981

\$ 389.72

RECEIPTS FOR 1980

Memberships.....	\$ 289.00
Bank Interest.....	10.14
KEWA Back Issue Sales.....	33.00
"T", Shirt Sales.....	23.50
Exchange on U.S.A. Cheque.....	1.21
Advance Refund From Chapter Symposium Committee.....	200.00
Postage Refund from Chapter Symposium Committee.....	<u>37.50</u>
	\$ 594.35

594.35

TOTAL RECEIPTS

\$ 984.07

DISBURSEMENTS

O.A.S. Toronto - Memberships.....	58.00
Bank Service Charges.....	3.40
Christmas Party Expenses.....	67.69
Projector Rental.....	21.40
Receipt Book Purchase.....	5.30
Courier Service.....	7.90
Postage For Symposium Advertising.....	37.50
Advance to Chapter Symposium Committee	200.00
Train Fare for Speaker.....	13.00
Printing and Postage for KEWA.....	<u>178.70</u>
	592.89
Bank Balance December 31, 1980.....	<u>391.18</u>
	\$ 984.07

\$ 984.07

NANTICOKE NOTCHED POINTS

SIZE: These points range in length from 24-55 mm, width 12-22 mm and thickness 3-7 mm, while the range of breadth between notches is 5-12 mm.



SHAPE: Both lateral edges are usually convex, but may be straight or concave, depending on re-sharpening. Basal edge configuration ranges from convex to concave and cross-sections are lenticular bi-convex. The side notches can vary from deep and narrow to the shallow and wide variants characteristic of many late specimens. Nanticoke Notched points are simply side notched isosceles triangular preforms.

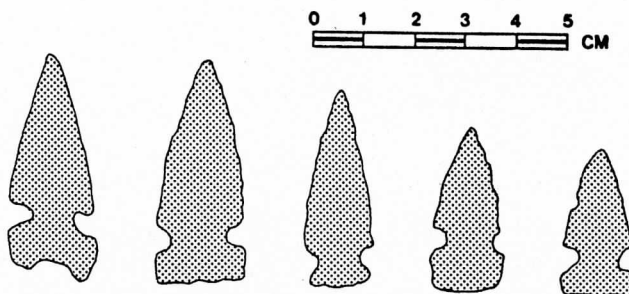
FLAKING: Irregular complete bifacial flaking characterizes the majority of these points; however, some examples display total secondary retouch over one face and only edge retouch on the other.

RAW MATERIAL: Onondaga chert is the predominant raw material, however a number of specimens were manufactured of Kettle Point chert.

DISTRIBUTION: Nanticoke Notched points are distributed throughout southwestern Ontario. They have been found as far east as the St. Lawrence valley and Jefferson County, New York, and occur commonly as far north as the south shore of Georgian Bay.

AGE AND CULTURAL AFFILIATIONS: This point form was in use among Ontario Iroquoian groups from c. 1400 - 1550 A.D. The vast majority were manufactured by prehistoric Neutral craftsmen, often at Onondaga chert outcrops workshop sites, and some appear to have been produced "in house" on the Parsons and Draper Southern Division Huron villages. Nanticoke Notched points have been recorded on many prehistoric Northern Division Huron - Ridley's (1952) *Lalonde* points - and some St. Lawrence Iroquois villages, as well as non-Iroquoian sites in far southwestern Ontario, such as the Weiser village (Fox, 1980).

REMARKS: It is not unusual to find these bifaces reworked as drills and it may be that future wear analysis will show these points to have had a wider range of functions than the contemporary Nanticoke Triangular form.

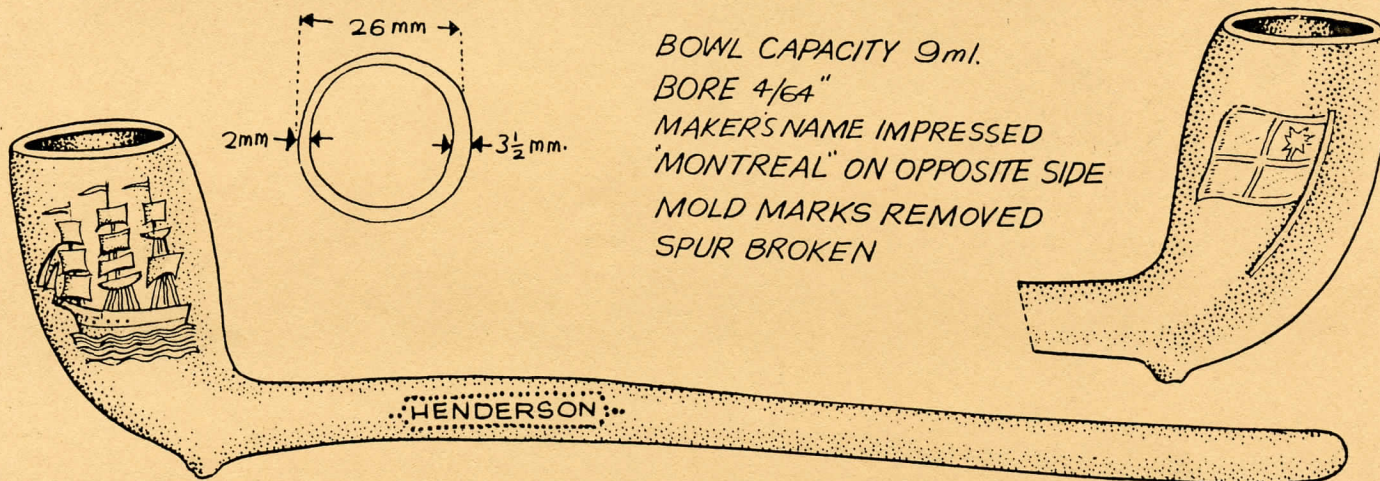
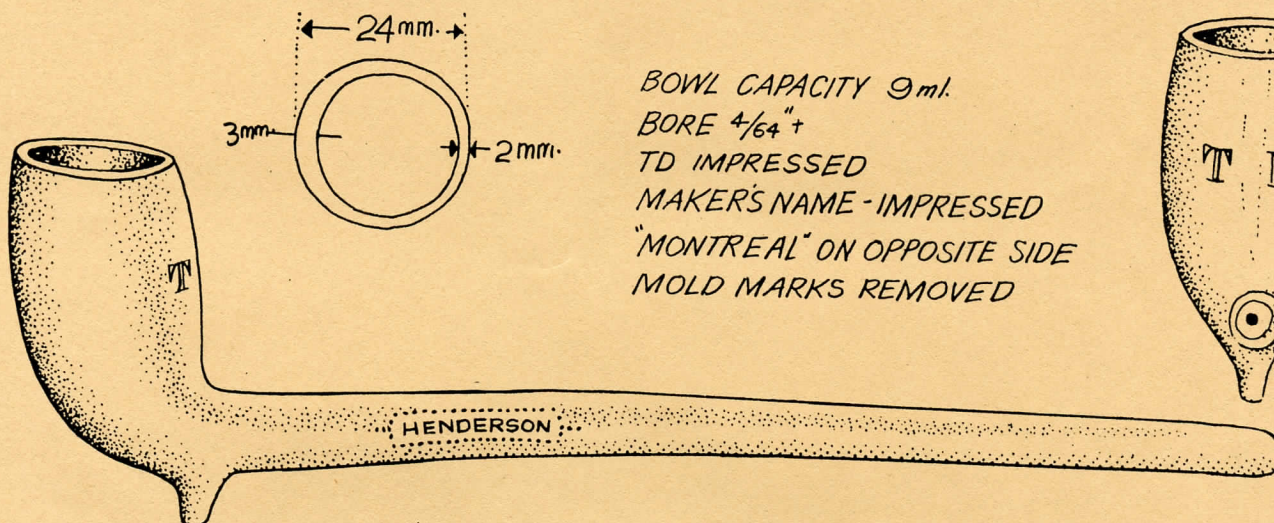


NINETEENTH CENTURY NOTES

THREE HENDERSON PIPES

THOMAS KENYON

Clay tobacco pipes are fragile; consequently, they are rarely found intact. Three exceptions are the Henderson pipes (illustrated below) recovered from a Hudson Bay Co. trading post in Temagami, c. 1834-75. Henderson pipes were manufactured in Montreal between 1847 and 1876, when the business was taken over by W.H. Dixon and Co. Henderson pipes are, of course, common on sites in Eastern Canada, but also have been found in Maine, New York State, Michigan and Wyoming. The bottom pipe with the crown on one side and the Prince of Wales feathers on the other was possibly made to commemorate the Prince of Wales' visit to Canada in 1860.



PIPES APPROX ACTUAL SIZE

